

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 21, 23, and 25 are currently amended. Claims 4, 18, 19, 24, and 29 are canceled. Claims 32-37 are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 4, 19, 24, and 29-31 stand objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations. While the Office Action provides a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, the Office Action's statement is directed to specific aspects of certain claims and not necessarily all of the claims. Applicant notes that the Office Action's comments may have paraphrased the language of the claims and it should be understood that the language of the claims themselves set out the scope of the claims. Thus, it is noted that the claim language should be viewed in light of the exact language of the claim rather than any paraphrasing or implied limitations thereof.

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,996,526 to Basson et al. (hereinafter "Basson")

Claims 1-3, 5-17, 20-22, and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,990,448 to Charlesworth et al. (hereinafter "Charlesworth") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,160 to D'hoore et al. (hereinafter "D'hoore").

Response to Rejections

Claims 4, 19, 24, and 29-31 stand objected to as depending from rejected base claims, and claims 1-3, 5-17, 20-23, and 25-28 stand rejected. The Office Action states

that claims 4, 19, 24, and 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 21, 23, and 25 have been amended to each include one or more of the limitations of claims 4, 19, 24, 29, and 31. Where appropriate, the dependent claims have been canceled. By way of clarification, independent claim 21 was amended to include limitations similar to the limitations of canceled claims 18 and 19. Also, new independent claim 32 has been added to include the limitations of independent claim 25 and claim 31. Thus, Applicant submits independent claims 1, 5, 21, 23, 25, and 32 are patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 30 and 31 and the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-17, 20-23, and 25-28 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

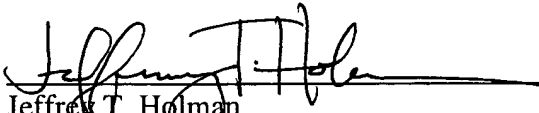
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeffrey Holman at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 1/10/07


Jeffrey T. Holman
Reg. No. 51,812

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300